

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE FIREARMS AND
WEAPONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CRIMINAL
USE) BILL 2020**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Submission on Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 V1

I have been at various times over the last 60 years a target shooter, hunter, and a collector and I am still participating in all of them. The firearms that I have used have been rifles, shotguns, and handguns.

Schedule 2 Amendments of Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 No. 127

I have objections to the definition of precursor as listed below.

[3] 25E (3)

1. Precursor. Wide open to interpretation.

Precursor is used in dealing with the manufacture of drugs and includes the chemicals used.

In the manufacture of firearms, the materials used include most steels (carbon, spring and stainless), wood, brass and plastics. Most of which can be found any home.

In the beginning firearms were produced with very basic tools that would nowadays be considered blacksmiths tools. As engineering technology developed more sophisticated machines were invented and used in the manufacture of firearms and their component parts. Therefore, under 51J (3) EVERY engineering, blacksmith, foundry or computer company is a firearms precursor. In addition, any person who owns a lathe, milling machine, shaper, band saw, chisel, hammer, moulds, drill of any type, vice, is a firearms precursor. This will apply to those hobbyists whose interest could be model steam engines or boats etc. So, in effect 51J (3) will apply to nearly every household in NSW.

2. Licenced firearms owners and others.

The proposed legislation does not clearly define what is to be recognised as being precursor.

Many people with an interest in firearms, some who may not have a firearms licence may be interested in firearms and can purchase books and internet sources that contain information and drawings on all categories of firearms including prohibited firearms. Are these books and websites going to be included in the firearms precursor definition?

A person with an interest in engineering and or automated machinery may have blueprints or plans on their computer as firearms make multiple use of some of their parts that could be applied to in a similar manner to automated machinery.

There has been a suggestion that I support that firearms licenced individuals are specifically identified as being exempt by stating that they are authorised to maintain, retain and create parts for the firearms they legally possess. Acts of illegally supplying unlicensed others then would have to be proven. This would remove all ambiguity. Having a firearms licence must also authorise the licensee to maintain their legally owned firearms.

3. **Precedent.** A word used in the legal profession to establish if an action is legitimate. While precursor has been used in other legislation enabling this proposed legislation will strengthen precedent for other legislation based on the same precursor concept. In other words, this would become a precursor to more legislation. An extreme example of precursor based legislation would be that ownership of a motor means that the owner has precursor to breaking all of the road rules and would be guilty of doing so.